

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3182

To provide for a land conveyance to the city of Craig, Alaska, and for
other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 28, 1999

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Resources

A BILL

To provide for a land conveyance to the city of Craig, Alaska,
and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Craig Municipal Eq-
5 uity Act of 1999”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds and declares the following:

8 (1) Section 6(a) of the Alaska Statehood Act
9 (48 U.S.C., note preceding section 21) granted
10 400,000 acres of national forest land to the State of

1 Alaska for the purpose of furthering development of
2 and expansion of communities. In 1969, the State of
3 Alaska selected 17,040 acres of this Federal land
4 grant at the request of the city of Craig, Alaska, but
5 this and other selections were not approved by the
6 United States Forest Service.

7 (2) On December 18, 1971, the Alaska Native
8 Claims Settlement Act (48 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.) was
9 enacted to settle outstanding Native aboriginal
10 claims to lands in the State of Alaska. The settle-
11 ment included the direction to convey certain lands
12 to Alaska Native village corporations located in
13 Southeast Alaska. These conveyances included all of
14 the public land in the vicinity of the city of Craig
15 that was selected by the State of Alaska in 1969.

16 (3) Pursuant to ANCSA, the Federal Govern-
17 ment conveyed 3,960 acres of public land within the
18 city of Craig, and all public land surrounding the
19 community, to 2 Native village corporations. These
20 adjoining conveyances occupy 93 percent of the
21 4,258 acres within the city limits of the city of
22 Craig. Outside of the existing 200-acre Craig town-
23 site, no other land within 10 miles of the Craig city
24 limits has been available for selection under the
25 Alaska Statehood Act.

1 (4) In the Alaska National Interest Lands Con-
2 servation Act (16 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.), the Congress
3 exempted Native corporations from municipal tax-
4 ation of their underdeveloped land, and enacted a
5 tax recapture provision, in section 907(d)(5) of that
6 Act (43 U.S.C. 1636(d)(5)), that acts as a further
7 disincentive to development of Native village cor-
8 poration land.

9 (5) Under the laws of the State of Alaska, in-
10 corporated municipalities are entitled to a share of
11 available State land within their corporate limits.
12 However, the enactment of ANCSA and cir-
13 cumstances experienced by no other municipality in
14 Alaska, including Federal land conveyances to 2 ad-
15 joining Native village corporations, has prevented
16 the city of Craig from acquiring a State land entitle-
17 ment.

18 (6) Since 1971, the city of Craig has grown
19 from a population of 250 people to nearly 2,500 peo-
20 ple and its demographics have changed, making it
21 difficult for Craig to qualify for many programs en-
22 acted by the Congress to provide assistance to vil-
23 lages with majority Alaska Native populations.

24 (7) Provisions of Federal tax laws and Federal
25 land conveyances have had the unintended effect of

1 preventing the city of Craig from exercising its gov-
 2 ernmental powers to tax 93 percent of the land with-
 3 in the municipality, and to receive any of the Fed-
 4 eral land grant promised at the time of Alaska state-
 5 hood for community expansion and development.

6 **SEC. 3. REQUIREMENT TO CONVEY LANDS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture
 8 shall, subject to valid existing rights, convey to the city
 9 of Craig, Alaska, all right, title, and interest of the United
 10 States in and to the lands described in subsection (b).

11 (b) LEGAL DESCRIPTION.—The lands referred to in
 12 subsection (a) are all Federal lands in the following de-
 13 scribed protracted and partially surveyed townships in the
 14 Copper River Meridian, Alaska:

15 COPPER RIVER MERIDIAN, ALASKA

16 T. 71 S., R. 81 E.

17 Section 24, E $\frac{1}{2}$;

18 Section 25, E $\frac{1}{2}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$;

19 Section 36.

20 Containing 1360 acres, more or less.

21 T. 71 S., R. 82 E.

22 Section 19, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$;

23 Section 29, W $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$;

24 Section 30, All;

25 Section 31, All.

26 Containing 1500 acres, more or less.

1 T. 72 S., R. 82 E.

2 Section 5, SW¹/₄NW¹/₄, W¹/₂, SW¹/₄;

3 Section 6, All;

4 Section 7, NE¹/₄NE¹/₄;

5 Section 8, W¹/₂, SW¹/₄SE¹/₄;

6 Section 17, NW¹/₄NW¹/₄, E¹/₂NW¹/₄,

7 NE¹/₄SW¹/₄, W¹/₂NE¹/₄, NW¹/₄SE¹/₄, S¹/₂SE¹/₄;

8 Section 20, NE¹/₄.

9 Containing 1672 acres, more or less.

10 Aggregating 4532 acres, more or less.

11 (c) DEADLINE.—The Secretary shall complete all
12 conveyances required by subsection (a) within 90 days
13 after the date of enactment of this Act.

14 (d) ESCROW ACCOUNT.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—All amounts received by the
16 United States on or after the date of enactment of
17 this Act as proceeds of contracts, leases, permits,
18 rights-of-way, or easements pertaining to the land to
19 be conveyed under subsection (a) shall be deposited
20 into a separate account in the Treasury.

21 (2) INVESTMENT.—The Secretary of the Treas-
22 ury shall invest moneys in the account in public debt
23 securities with maturities suitable to the needs of
24 the account, as determined by the Secretary of the
25 Treasury, and bearing interest at rates determined

1 by the Secretary of the Treasury, taking into consid-
2 eration current market yields on outstanding mar-
3 ketable obligations of the United States of com-
4 parable maturity. Amounts earned on such invest-
5 ments shall be deposited in the account.

6 (3) USE.—Amounts in the account shall, sub-
7 ject to appropriations, be paid by the Secretary to
8 the city of Craig at the time of conveyance under
9 subsection (a) of lands from which the amounts are
10 derived.

11 (e) TIMBER EXPORT RESTRICTION.—Notwith-
12 standing any other provision of law, timber harvested from
13 land conveyed to the city of Craig under this section shall
14 not be transported from Alaska by any person as unproc-
15 essed logs, and shall not be conveyed by any person for
16 purposes of such transport.

17 (f) RELATION TO OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—Notwith-
18 standing any other provision of law, the land conveyed to
19 the city of Craig under this section shall be considered
20 in lieu of land not conveyed under the Alaska Statehood
21 Act for the purpose of furthering development of and ex-
22 pansion of the city of Craig. Such conveyance is not sub-
23 ject to the provisions of the Alaska Statehood Act, nor
24 does it limit or restrict the State of Alaska's land entitle-
25 ment under section 6(a) of that Act.

1 (g) MAPS.—

2 (1) FILING.—Maps depicting lands to be con-
3 veyed under this section shall be maintained on file
4 and available for public inspection—

5 (A) in the District of Columbia, in the Of-
6 fice of the Chief of the United States Forest
7 Service and in the Office of the Secretary of the
8 Interior; and

9 (B) in Craig, Alaska, in the office of the
10 Craig Ranger District.

11 (2) CONTROLLING EFFECT.—The acreages
12 cited in subsection (b) are approximate. If there is
13 any discrepancy between any such cited acreage and
14 the land depicted on the maps, the maps shall con-
15 trol. The maps shall not be construed to convey
16 State of Alaska or private land.

17 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

18 In this Act:

19 (1) ANCSA.—The term “ANCSA” means the
20 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (48 U.S.C.
21 1601 et seq.).

22 (2) ALASKA STATEHOOD ACT.—The term
23 “Alaska Statehood Act” means Public Law 85–508
24 (48 U.S.C., note preceding section 21).

- 1 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
2 the Secretary of Agriculture.

